

SENATE No. 1295

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael R. Knapik

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Establishing a Special Commission on Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities in Which Group Homes Are Located.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Michael R. Knapik	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Michael F. Kane	5th Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION ON PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES IN WHICH GROUP HOMES ARE LOCATED.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission to make a study and investigation of
2 establishing a payment in lieu of taxes mechanism for municipalities in which group homes are
3 located. The commission shall be charged with evaluating options and the practices of other
4 states, collecting data, and making policy recommendations that will be used to develop a
5 statewide procedure to compensate municipalities for the properties and buildings occupied by
6 group homes.

7 SECTION 2. The commission shall consist of the secretary of administration and finance
8 or his designee, the secretary of health and human services or his designee, the commissioner of
9 the department of mental health or his designee, the commissioner of department of
10 developmental services or his designee, the commissioner of the department of housing and
11 community development or his designee, the commissioner of the department of revenue or his
12 designee, the chairs of the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse, the chairs of
13 the joint committee on revenue, the senate minority leader or his designee, the house minority

14 leader or his designee, and the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association or
15 his designee.

16 SECTION 3. The commission shall report its findings, recommendations, and annual cost
17 of its recommendations, as well as any proposed legislation, to the clerks of the senate and house
18 of representatives and to the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means on or
19 before December 31, 2009.